



Wisconsin Food Stamp Program Fact Sheet

Transitional Food Stamps

Transitional Food Stamp Program

The Transitional Food Stamp program extends food stamp benefits for five months to households leaving Wisconsin Works or Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. The Transitional Food Stamp program eases the transition from welfare to work and provides a safety net to families who lose cash assistance.

Eligibility for the Transitional Food Stamp Program

To be eligible, a member of the food stamp unit must have:

- Participated in a Wisconsin Works payment tier (including Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and,
- Received at least one Wisconsin Works cash payment, and
- Been part of an active food stamp case in the month benefits are determined and the month the last Wisconsin Works payment is issued.

Food stamp allotment calculation

The Transitional Food Stamp benefit amount is based on household income, expenses and composition for the month prior to the last Wisconsin Works payment month, also called the “benefit determination month”. No new income or Wisconsin Works payments are included in the benefit calculation. The Transitional Food Stamp benefit amount will stay the same for the next five months. Families are not required to report changes during this five-month period.

Transitional Food Stamp Program benefit allotment change

The only time a Transitional Food Stamp allotment amount changes within the five-month period is if a Transitional Food Stamp food unit member moves out and joins another food stamp household. The Transitional Food Stamp food unit benefit amount will be reduced due to the change in household size. This newly calculated benefit amount will remain the same for the remainder of the five-month benefit period. Should that same person move back into the original Transitional Food Stamp household, the benefit amount will remain at the reduced amount for the rest of the five-month period.

No limit on receiving Transitional Food Stamps

There is no limit to the number of times a household is eligible for Transitional Food Stamps. Even if the household returns to a Wisconsin Works payment tier while receiving Transitional Food Stamps, the Transitional Food Stamp benefit amount will remain the same until the end of the five-month period.

Receiving food stamps after the five-month Transitional Food Stamp period is over

To continue receiving food stamp benefits after the five-month Transitional Food Stamp period ends, the household must complete a recertification for regular food stamps. The Transitional Food Stamp household will receive a notice to contact their worker to complete the recertification approximately 45 days before the end of the five-month benefit period. A face-to-face recertification interview must be completed to continue benefits. To avoid a gap in food stamp benefits, the recertification must be

completed during the last month the family is eligible for Transitional Food Stamps. If the household does not complete the recertification process until the following month, the household may have a gap in benefits. If the household chooses not to apply for regular food stamps, the case will close.

Transitional Food Stamp food units may request a recertification for regular food stamps anytime during the five-month benefit period. There may be situations when changes in household size, income, expenses, etc, would cause a household to be eligible for additional food stamp benefits.

For More Information:

- Contact Recipient Services at 1-800-362-3002 (TTY and translation services are available), or visit our web site at: <http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/FoodStamps/index.htm>
- Contact your local county/tribal social or human services department.

Information provided in this document is general. To find out more detailed information the Transitional Food Stamp Program, please contact your local county/tribal social or human services department.

The Department of Health and Family Services is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, please contact (608) 266-3356 or (608) 266-2555 TTY (toll free). All translation services are free of charge.

For civil rights questions call (608) 266-3465 or (608) 266-2555 TTY (toll free).

PHC 16074 (2/04)